

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /174 W
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R 271454Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5569

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG VE

SUBJ: FEA STUDY IN VENEZUELA

1. FOLLOWING SPATE OF STORIES ON AUGUST 23, CARACAS PAPERS OVER WEEK-END AND ON MONDAY GAVE SCANT COVERAGE TO FEA STUDY ISSUE. SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THAT MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS WILL CONTINUE TO STUDY THE MATTER IN ORDER TO PRESENT A REPORT TO PRESIDENT PEREZ.

2. AUGUST 23 PAPERS HIGHLIGHTED AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS AUGUST 22 CALL ON MINES MINISTER HERNANDEZ WAS TO INTRODUCE EMBASSY'S NEW ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND PETROLEUM OFFICER: THAT HE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ANY U.S. OFFICIAL, BE IT KRUEGER OR ANYONE ELSE, COMING TO VENEZUELA: THAT HE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY SCANDAL WHATSOEVER, AND THAT HE HAD NO PLANS TO RETIRE. COMMUNIST PRESS TRIED TO PORTRAY AMBASSADOR AS ANOTHER IN A LONG LINE OF U.S. AMBASSADORS TO VENEZUELA WHO HAVE BEEN THE SERVANTS OF U.S. OIL INTERESTS.

3. EL NACIONAL ON AUGUST 24 CARRIED UPI REPORT FROM WASHINGTON THAT
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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS GIVEN KRUEGER PERMISSION TO CONTINUE

HIS FEA STUDY ABROAD, STARTING IN JAPAN AND INDONESIA. EL NACTIONAL
ADDS REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO AN FEA SOURCE THAT KRUEGER WILL RETURN
TO VENEZUELA BEFORE COMPLETING HIS STUDY, WHICH WILL TAKE ABOUT
TWO MORE MONTHS. AUGUST 26 EL UNIVERSAL REPORTED STATEMENT BY
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RAPHAEL THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN CLARIFIED
AND THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY DECLARED ITS POSITION,
I.E. THAT THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WOULD ALWAYS WELCOME KRUEGER.

4. COMMENT: DOWN TURN OVER THE WEEKEND IN PRESS INTEREST INDICATES
THAT FEA STUDY ISSUE HAS LOST PUBLIC INTEREST FOR THE PRESENT.
STATEMENT BY RAPHAEL SHOULD HELP CALM FURTHER SPECULATION.FISHER

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